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Raleigh Police Department Community Newsletter

This newsletter is produced by the Public Affairs Unit of the Raleigh Police Department. It provides Raleigh citizens with crime prevention tips, seasonal information, and upcoming RPD community activities.



The holiday season is always a special time of year. It is also a time when busy people may become somewhat careless and vulnerable to theft and other holiday crime. We can never be too careful, too prepared, or too aware. This holiday edition of the RPD Community Newsletter features tips to keep you safe for a happy holiday season.

Please share this information with family, friends, and neighbors. The Raleigh Police Department wishes you a safe, happy, and peaceful holiday season.

PACKAGE DELIVERY SAFETY TIPS

Whether it's because of busy schedules, a desire to avoid holiday crowds, an inability to get to shopping locations or some other reason, the number of people purchasing items online rises each year. Delivery boxes left at doors are tempting targets for criminals. Here are some tips for keeping your packages and home safe as your holiday goodies arrive:

- Consider an alternate destination; when you order something online, consider sending the package to your workplace or to a family member, friend or neighbor who is home during the day to accept delivery.
- Send it to your nearest package delivery location for pick up.
- Request a signature.
- Request a vacation hold. You can request a vacation hold on all shipments for up to 14 days.
- Ask for a ring or a knock. You can leave instructions for drivers to always ring your doorbell or knock on your door when a package is being left.
- Schedule your delivery. Pick a delivery time and date that works for you.
- Ask a neighbor to check your front door frequently on a day when you know a package will come.
- Install a webcam.



AUTOMATED TELLER MACHINE (ATM) SAFETY



ATMS are a convenient way to get cash if you want to avoid waiting in bank lines, if banks are closed, or if they are not conveniently located. Here are some safety tips:

- If you must use an ATM, choose one that is located in a well-lighted locations, inside a mall, or inside a police station. Withdraw only the amount of cash you need.
- Protect your PIN by shielding the ATM keypad from anyone who is standing near you.
- Do not throw your ATM receipt away at the ATM location.

BUYING OR SELLING ONLINE USING APPS

The online sales business is big business, and apps for selling used items - like Craigslist, Letgo, and Offerup - keep popping up. Here are some basic safety tips for buyers and sellers to avoid becoming a victim during the exchange:

- Meet in a public place during the daytime; a police department parking lot is ideal.
- Do not go alone; take someone with you if available.
- If purchasing tickets to a concert or show, check with the venue first to make sure the seats exist.
- If purchasing something large for a lot of money, meet at the bank and have them run the cash through their machine to make sure it's not counterfeit.
- Set up an email address to use for online sales only.
- Do not give out personal information.
- You control the meeting; meet where you want and where you feel comfortable. If the other party wants to change the agreed upon meeting location or the terms of the deal, it is a red flag.
- Only accept cash payment; do not take partial payments or anything other than what was agreed upon prior to the meeting.
- Hand over merchandise only after you receive the cash payment.
- Ask for ID, get a vehicle description and license tag number before handing over cash.
- If you agree to meet at your home, do not let anyone inside (not even to use the bathroom).
- If it seems too good to be true, it probably is. Trust your instincts and cease contact or walk away if it the situation doesn't feel right.

ADDITIONAL HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

- Don't post your holiday plans on social networking sites.
- Don't leave gift boxes on the curb or leave purchased items visible in a vehicle or garage.
- Secure all doors and windows anytime you leave.
- Suspend all mail and newspapers when taking an extended vacation.
- Stay alert and be aware of what's going on around you.
- Put lights on times if you leave your Residence.
- Teach children to go to a store clerk or security guard if you get separated.
- Don't leave your vehicle unlocked.
- Don't leave any item of value in your vehicle in plain view.

